

BENNETT-BARNETT POSY #27  
AMERICAN LEGION  
Camas, Washington

Post History

The Post was first started in 1920 with Walter Mueller as first Commander. There was a membership of around 50. The first name of the Post was Ray Bennett Post #27. Ray Bennett, a resident of Camas, was lost overseas in France in World War I. The name was changed in 1947 to Bennett- Barnett Post #27 to honor both Bennett and Barnett, as Barnett was lost in World War II.

The Post from the time of organization in 1920 until 1933 had the usual round of activities. In 1933, under Commander Frank Collins, the Wild Spree of '33 was put on to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Camas. The celebration was quite a success with having a carnival, side shows, rodeo, dances, beard contest, parade, wrestling contests and many more events. Enough money was raised to start a hall at the present location ( N.E. Third Avenue ), but before that the meetings had been held in various places in town.

In 1934 another effort was made to put on another Spree but it rained for the three days of the celebration and the Legion took quite a loss. From that time on it was a struggle to even keep going. The Life Membership plan was started in 1944 and several took it up.

During the depression days the Post ran a soup kitchen in the basement of the Stoller Hotel, which is where J.C. Pennys is now located. This lasted for several months.

There was an effort made to establish a club in 1951-52 but opposition was too much. For several years the hall worked on whatever and whenever they could get any money to keep the creditors away. In 1960 Roller Skating was started and proved a lifesaver as far as financial help. At one time the Post had over 200 members but to date the membership is around 150-160. In the past year the Post made better than their quota. Due to the fact that a very feeble effort was made to keep any history, it is very difficult to get any true facts outside of the memories of the past Post members. The list of the Post Charter members and Auxiliary is lost.

In the fifty years of the Post history there have been 46 Commanders. Five did two-year terms and one did three years (1-2) at two different times. Two WWI and WWII have one term each. (Tom Carras and C. J. Schick)

This information above given to me by Floyd Henley.

LEGION HALL

I was a little girl when the hall was built, probably about seven or eight years of age. My dad, Ben Lethlean, was a Legionair and helped construct the building. I remember my mother being so worried about dad being up on that high-pitched roof and more than once I remember her scolding him.

At that time there was quite a large membership and they were very active. They had large potlucks and traveled to different lodges in other cities. They had dances up